DR sophie scamps MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

SUMMER UPDATE 2025

Dear Mackellar Resident,

As we head into summer and the festive season, I hope you can take time to enjoy our beautiful electorate of Mackellar. I certainly feel privileged to both live here and to have the opportunity to continue to represent our views, values and needs in Canberra.

Supporting small business remains a cornerstone of my work, including advocating for a **$20,000 tax-free threshold** and making the **instant asset write-off permanent** to give local businesses the certainty they need to invest and grow.

Increasing investment in preventive and **primary healthcare** to improve the wellbeing of Australians is also a key focus.

I am also fighting for stronger regulations to **reduce plastic pollution** and **protect our environment** and, as always, I continue to strive for a safe future for our children through **science-led action on climate change.**

In response to widespread community concern around e-bike safety, I have introduced the **Safer E-Bikes Bill**, which proposes national safety and import standards for e-bikes to protect riders and pedestrians.

I am also pushing the Government to **restrict gambling and junk food advertising**, **strengthen our Freedom of Information laws** and ensure we have an independent, evidence-based **Centre for Disease Control that maintains public trust**.

A major win has been the NSW Government's commitment to establish the **Great Koala National Park**, protecting 176,000 hectares of vital habitat, something I have campaigned for alongside our community and Independent State MPs.

Locally, as our Northern Beaches Hospital transitions to a new model of care under public management, I am working with the Minns Government to ensure **the current level of private healthcare services and beds**, that our community relies on, are retained.

There's still much more to achieve in 2026 and I look forward to continuing to work with the community to ensure Mackellar's priorities remain front and centre in Canberra.

Have a great summer!

Sophie

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SAFER E-BIKE STANDARDS

E-bikes are a vital part of the shift to cleaner, more active transport, providing greater freedom for people young and old. However, the technology has raced ahead of safety standards so e-bike models that can be easily unlocked to be ridden like a motorbike without pedalling and at speeds over 50-60 km/h, are widely available. This has led to broad concerns across our community for the safety of riders, pedestrians and drivers alike. On public roads the electric motor must cut out when the e-bike reaches 25 km/h.

At the federal level I have introduced the Safer E-Bikes Bill, to ensure best practice e-bike safety standards and anti-tampering provisions, and I will continue working with local State MPs, Northern Beaches Council, police and the community to respond to this growing issue.

E-bike safety, have your say!
Complete the survey.

STRONGER CLIMATE ACTION

The most critical global issue of our age is climate change. The choices we make today will shape our future and that of our children and grandchildren. Australia has an important leadership role to play. The Government's 2035 emissions reduction target of 62-70 per cent is not aligned with what the science tells us.

We need stronger action to avoid the escalating risks outlined in the Australian Government's National Climate Risk Assessment, including coastal erosion, more frequent and intense fires, and rising insurance costs that will make it harder to protect our homes. This target also misses the chance to fully tap into the economic opportunities of the clean energy transition. I'll keep pushing for strong, science-backed climate action and clean energy security to protect our beaches, bushland and the homes we love.

2035
EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET

62–70%

REFORM NEEDED TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

There is broad agreement that our environment laws are failing to protect nature and causing unacceptably long delays for project decisions for business. With 19 ecosystems on the brink of collapse and an extinction crisis unfolding, we need urgent reform.

As these laws are debated, I will be pushing hard to remove exemptions that allow mass deforestation and vast logging of our native forests, and end carve-outs and exemptions that allow impacts to go unassessed.

I'll also be seeking to ensure the new head of the Federal Environment Protection Agency is independently appointed, to give Australians confidence that our environment laws are being enforced without political interference.

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SAFEGUARDING AUSTRALIANS' HEALTH

The establishment of an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) is a vital step in meeting future public health challenges and threats to Australians' health.

To ensure the CDC's decisions are evidence-based and free from political interference, as we've seen happen with the US CDC, I'm calling for the Director-General and Advisory Council to be independently appointed rather than by the Health Minister of the day.

I'm also calling on the Government to include the prevention of chronic disease, Australia's largest burden of disease, costing $82 billion per year, in the CDC's foundational scope. Currently this is excluded.

Getting this right from the outset is critical to ensure the CDC can deliver on its mission to protect public health, now and in the future.

HOLDING THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCOUNT ON FOI LAWS

A commitment to transparency and accountability is vital to a strong democracy, and our Freedom of Information (FOI) laws are key to this. However, the Government's proposed changes to these laws would move our political system towards greater secrecy rather than greater transparency.

This would make it easier for the Government to hide information from the public and harder for journalists, whistleblowers and civil society to hold them to account.

As a result, I am calling on the Government to withdraw the bill and establish an independent, comprehensive review of the FOI system to modernise it in a way that strengthens rather than weakens our democracy. I will continue to hold the Government to account on this issue.

SUPERANNUATION TAX CHANGES

It is welcome news that the Treasurer listened to concerns regarding the proposed changes to superannuation tax.

While there was widespread support to make superannuation tax fairer, along with many others, I argued that taxing unrealised gains was not workable and would unfairly impact groups such as small business owners and families who have their properties held in self-managed super funds.

I also lobbied for the new $3 million tax threshold to be indexed to inflation to protect future generations.

This is a great win for commonsense and fairness.

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LOCAL ISSUES UPDATE

The NSW Government's public takeover of **Northern Beaches Hospital** is an important first step in transitioning from the public-private partnership with Healthscope, which failed to deliver a consistent standard of acute public healthcare. As the hospital transitions to a model of public care with improved staff-patient ratios, junior doctor levels, IT systems and resourcing, I will continue working with the Minns Government to retain vital public and private services, ensuring timely access to care for our community.

Meanwhile, following matched funding from State and Federal Governments, the **Mona Vale Rd West** upgrade has resumed. Transport for NSW is conducting geotechnical and biodiversity investigations between McCarrs Creek Rd and Powderworks Rd until late February 2026. For details, contact monavaleroad@transport.nsw.gov.au or 1800 684 490.

LOCAL WIN

Narrabeen local and sports photojournalist Andrew, lives with a degenerative neurological condition. He contacted my office after delays to his NDIS plan left him waiting months for new leg braces, making it difficult to walk. My team escalated the case, and his plan was prioritised, helping restore his safety and independence.

My team and I are here to help, please contact us!

> Thank you for your swift action on my behalf. Without your intervention, I don't know how long I would have been waiting." ~*Andrew*

MACKELLAR GRANT RECIPIENTS

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PAY BAYVIEW GOLF CLUB
THE SUM OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS
FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANT
$ 5,000.00

Congratulations to the many Mackellar grant recipients, including **Bayview Golf Club**, **Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club**, **Northern Beaches Veteran Wellbeing Centre**, **South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club**, **Duffys Forest Residents Association**, **Be Centre Foundation** and **Mowana Safe Space**, who all received federal grants this year to continue their incredible support for our community.

Thank you to all our emergency services and incredible volunteers, who work tirelessly to look after our community, particularly over the summer months.

DO YOU HAVE A BUSHFIRE PLAN?

With the bushfire season upon us, now is the time to prepare your property and ensure you have a plan to stay safe.

A little preparation can make all the difference.

Scan the QR code to create a plan.

DOWNLOAD EMERGENCY+ APP

Emergency+ is a free app developed by Australia's emergency services and the Australian Government. The app uses **GPS functionality** built into smart phones to help a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

Scan the QR code to download Emergency+.

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